

**2003 Transportation Summit
Remarks
MDOT Director Gloria Jeff**

- Welcome Michigan transportation community! And welcome to those joining us via the Internet!
- This is a proud day in the history of transportation in Michigan where we have been on the cutting edge of transportation since the turn of the century. In fact, in 2005, our department will celebrate 100 years of serving the people of Michigan.
- The first mile of concrete in the world was in Wayne County in 1909;
- The now-familiar center line, considered by many to be the most important safety feature in the history of auto transportation, started in Wayne County in 1911 and was later adopted nationwide.
- In 1946, the first new streamlined train built after World War II enters service. The Pere Marquette operated between Detroit and Grand Rapids in 160 minutes.
- We opened the second span of the Blue Water Bridge linking Port Huron and Sarnia – a binational celebration in 1997; a partnership with our colleagues in Ontario and Canada.
- We help fund small airports, intercity rail and public transit;
- And now, Michigan's first-ever Transportation Summit! TEAM TRANSPORTATION, you *are* the cutting edge of history!
- I began this year with three priorities:
 - Increase federal funding for Michigan.
 - Protecting existing transportation assets as a first priority.
 - Engagement of the transportation community by MDOT.
- Increase federal funding is a continuing effort as reauthorization effort continues.

- We must protect existing assets through the four-year redirection of investments in the "Preserve FIRST" program.
- TEAM MDOT has expanded its involvement with all parts of the transportation community. This Summit is a model of expanded inclusion. The Planning Team involved *all* partners in transportation.
- These next two days will help set the direction of transportation for Michigan in the 21st century.
- Today and tomorrow, the case will be made for why transportation investments, programs and projects are important – and let me assure you – we are talking multi-modal transportation here.
- Decisions, recommendations and actions will be based upon input from the community, including advocacy groups and transportation providers. And the transportation community will be responsible for the followup – it won't be just MDOT.
- We'll make the case for **what** needs to be done and **when** it will be done and will identify **who** will make it happen.
- This is not a traditional conference. People won't lecture to you. You are here to be an active participant in this process.
- Our job these next two days is very ambitious: to determine our collective vision for multi-modal transportation in Michigan and then develop an action plan to deliver the vision.
- Governor Granholm has said she wants to make Michigan a "magnet" for jobs, growth, economic opportunity, and people.
- A high quality transportation system is a key component to achieving this goal.

- To make Michigan a tremendous state in which to live and a tremendous place to work, we must create a plan which supports a vision of Michigan which includes one where citizens are involved in every aspect of building this great state and where we are committed to a bright future for every child and family.
- Our partnership with you will help us build a legacy of cooperation – and indeed, I expect our work these next two days to become a watershed event for transportation in Michigan - - another milestone is Michigan's transportation history.
- IT'S TIME TO GET BUSY! LET'S WORK FOR MICHIGAN!